THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) In the wake of Operation Blue Star, 2709 personnel of the Army belonging to the Sikh community had deserted their respective stations while none from Navy and Air Force was involved in this act.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of 2709 personnel referred to in Part (a) above, 2297 were kept back in the Army/Defence Security Corps (DSC). Out of the remaining 412 personnel, 50 have since been employed by the Government of Punjab (year-wise break-up not available). Ministry of Home Affairs have forwarded the names of the remaining personnel to various Central Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, etc. in March 1990 for providing suitable employment to these personnel on preferential basis i.e. relaxation of age limit, educational qualifications and employment exchange procedure, etc.

Prevention against intake of drugs by sportpersons

1734. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 23 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 1990 and state whether adequate protection are given to the members of Indian teams sent to International sports meets to prevent any intake of drug without the knowledge of the sportsmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): The Indian Olympic Association have reported that the managers of the Indian teams ensure strict adherence of the training schedule at the venue of the competitions, principally by not allowing the sportspersons to move out of the Games Village/Campus freely. The sportspersons are also not permitted to bring any food packets etc. from outside. The team managers are also required to keep a watch on them at their living quarters in the Games Village, even after the training schedule at the competition venues. No outside Agencies are permitted to enter such living quarters without the permission of the Manager/Coach of the teams. According to the IOA, therefore, appropriate steps are thus taken to prevent any intake of drugs without the knowledge of the sportspersons.

"Shoot and scoot" facility in Bofors Gun

1735. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that among the original bids for 155 mm Howitzer guns, only AB Bofors had offered the "shoot and scoot" facility incorporated in its guns;

(b) if not, what are the other manufacturers who had the said facility incorporated in their original bids; and

(c) the names of those manufacturers who incorporated it subsequently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). According to the Technical Evaluation of the Army HQ, only the Bofors 77B Gun has true burst fire capability, which is an essential feature of "shoot and scoot" tactics, because of its higher degree of automation. The burst fire capability of other guns did not match this capability of the Bofors Gun.

(c) M/s. Voest Alpine, Austria, who subsequently incorporated an Auxiliary Power Unit in a new version of their originally offered gun, also claimed to have improved the burst fire capability of this gun.